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## 1. House Republicans Introduce Bill to Rewrite Immigration Policy

Sweeping immigration reform legislation continues to be introduced on Capitol Hill. In the latest example, the chairman of the immigration subcommittee of the House of Representatives, Rep. Lamar Smith (R–Tex.), has introduced a massive bill that would revamp current immigration law by addressing both legal and illegal immigration. Introduced on June 22, the tough new bill, entitled the "Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995" (H.R. 1915), would virtually rewrite all areas of current immigration policy.

Among other things, H.R. 1915 would reduce legal immigration by about one third and refugee admissions by half. The bill would also revamp the employment eligibility verification system, double the number of Border Patrol agents on the line and bolster border fortifications. In addition, the proposed legislation would speed the deportation of undocumented aliens by streamlining both removal proceedings and the appeal process.

In a press statement, Rep. Smith praised the "work, creativity and vibrancy" of generations of immigrants, but said that it is time to "put the interests of America first" and transform immigration policy from one that serves special interests to one that serves the national interest.[1] "It doesn't matter where immigrants come from," said Rep. Smith. "What's important is where they're going."

While the bill is primarily the product of House Republicans, Rep. Smith predicted that the Clinton administration would support many of its provisions since the bill tracks many of the proposals recently put forth by the Commission on Immigration Reform,[2] and subsequently endorsed by the President.[3]

A similar bill was approved by the Senate immigration subcommittee on June 14. Many provisions in that bill are similar to those in H.R. 1915.[4]

1 See *New York Times*, June 22, 1995, A19, at col. 1.
2 See 72 Interpreter Releases 793 (June 12, 1995).
3 *New York Times*, June 22, 1995, A19, at col. 1.
4 See 72 Interpreter Releases 797 (June 12, 1995). The Senate immigration subcommittee's recent




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